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SECRET 030930Z FEB72 CITE

DIRECTOR INFO VIENTIANE.

3 Feb 72 529365

VIENTIANE: PLEASE PASS TO

1. FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM AND IS FORWARDED FOR HQS INFORMATION:

QUOTE

SECRET 311202Z JAN 72 CITE VIENTIANE 51103

PART II

REFS A DIRECTOR 219435 *

B VIENTIANE 50472 (IN 515907) **

1. AS A FOLLOW UP TO THE REFERENCED MESSAGES, NOTES

THAT BOTH MRS. TOWNLEY AND MRS. WEISSENBACK HAVE NOW RAISED WITH PERSONNEL OFFICER VIENTIANE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO APPROACH THEIR RESPECTIVE CONGRESSMEN AND/OR SENATORS TO SEE IF THE NAMES OF THEIR HUSBANDS COULD NOT BE GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S PARTY TO TAKE WITH THEM TO PEKING. BOTH WIVES HAVE MADE THE SAME SUGGESTION INDIVIDUALLY, AND MRS. WEISSENBACK APPEARS

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TO HAVE ARRIVED AT HER POSITION WITHOUT HAVING CONSULTED MRS. TOWNLEY.

2. [REDACTED] HAS SUGGESTED TO THESE WOMEN THROUGH [REDACTED]

PERSONNEL OFFICER THAT IT MIGHT BE MORE EXPEDITIOUS IF A REQUEST SUCH AS THEY PROPOSED BE MADE ON BEHALF OF ALL THE CREWMEMBERS FAMILIES ON C-123 293 BY THE WASHINGTON OFFICE OF [REDACTED] THROUGH OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT CHANNELS TO THE WHITE HOUSE. THIS WOULD HAVE THE

BENEFICIAL EFFECT OF PERHAPS AVOIDING THE SORT OF PUBLICITY THAT MIGHT ACCRUE TO INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS THAT MIGHT BE EXPLOITED BY THE MEDIA. IF YOU CONCUR THIS SUGGESTION, [REDACTED] WOULD APPRECIATE BEING SO ADVISED IN ORDER THAT THE LOOP MIGHT BE CLOSED

WITH THE AFFECTED FAMILIES. FYI: [REDACTED] WIFE OF THE STATOTHR PIC OF 293 IS CURRENTLY ON A VACATION TRIP IN PENANG AND DOES NOT KNOW OF THE IDEAS OF THE OTHER TWO AMERICAN WIVES.

UNQUOTE.

2. [REDACTED] HAVE DISCUSSED MATTER [REDACTED]

AND CONCLUDE THAT IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO HAVE MESDAMES TOWNLEY AND WEISSENBACK [REDACTED] WORKING THROUGH [REDACTED]

THAN WORKING INDEPENDENTLY AND THEREFORE PROPOSE TO CONCUR

IN [REDACTED] SUGGESTION UNLESS HQS SEES REASONS WHY IT SHOULD NOT WORK THIS WAY. ADVISE. GP-1.

SECRET

CS COMMENT: *Hqs. and State are both concerned with the possible repercussions should Mrs. Townley become involved in the C-123 case.